

Virginia Naturally Annual Report for Calendar Year 2005

Action Plan: To increase the number of new partner organizations, communication with partners and website hits; host an annual EE conference for non-formal educators (Community-based); develop regional networks, professional development opportunities, grant funding and EE resources; and to increase stewardship by 10%.

Reporting period: Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2005

- VRUEC held annual business meeting Jan. 19, 2005.
- New Coordinator began March 10, 2005.
- **128** organizations signed up as **new partners** during this calendar year.
- **Nine** electronic newsletters with most current professional development, grant funding and EE resources and sent out to partner base of over 1,000.
- Website statistics compiled report 33,613 website "hits" with 5,177 downloads.
- Website re-designed to conform to new state standards. Launched 12/12/05.
- VaN participated, presented, or exhibited at **30 + events/conferences/workshops**.
- 107 educators attended *Your Ecological Footprint 2005 Virginia EE conference and 1st partner meeting* at Camp Chanco. Top three best features of the conference include: networking, conference location and resources. Future conferences should offer more hands-on outdoor sessions; more down time for networking; and that conference location be moved across the state and held at locations similar to Chanco. Respondents recommended the following future conference tracks: Communications (Tools for Marketing and Public Outreach); Outdoor Track (offer anything outdoors; hands-on; getting people of all ages outside); Success Stories in EE; K-12 Communicating with Schools (anything that involves folks from DOE); and a Professional Development Training Track (i.e.: Interpretation training)
- **Regional EE Networks** (teams)
 - Hampton Roads Alliance for EE- 175 local groups functioning as HRAEE.
 - Richmond - 44 local groups- They have held two meetings, established a steering committee which will meet in early 06.
 - Southwest VA - 14 groups. Have met once. Plans are in progress to hold a regional training/professional development workshop before May 06.

Southside VA will meet on Jan. 20, 2006 and South Central VA will meet on February 16, 2006. Groups in Roanoke area and Northern VA have discussed potentially meeting. A grant request was submitted November 23, 2005 to EPA for funding to build capacity and sustainability of environmental education to implement our existing state business plan and develop leaders in place for the next business plan. It includes pass thru grants.
- Two rounds of micro **Classroom Grants** were awarded to 97 schools which received \$67,850 grant funds.
- **65 VaNaturally Exemplary Schools** as of December 31.
- 1,500 **Love-A-Tree** kits developed and distributed. Theme: Air Quality: *Clean Fresh Air*.
- VA Junior Academy Science presented check in the amount of **\$5,500** to be awarded as science scholarships from the **VaNaturally5K**, annual race to benefit VJAS.
- **Stewardship VA** reported 14,323 volunteers received certificates for 236 projects registered during Spring Campaign and 2,266 volunteers received certificates for 145 projects registered during the Fall Campaign